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THE INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL MEDICINE,
10, Parks Road, Oxford.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF SALOP.

INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL
MEDICINE

10, PARKS ROAD,
OXFORD

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR 1944

OF THE

County Medical Officer of Health.

WILLIAM TAYLOR, M.D., D.P.H.

SHREWSBURY,
February, 1946.

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*To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health
and Housing Committee.*

SIR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN;

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for 1944, which has been curtailed in accordance with official requirements. It is considered, however, that the statistical information which it contains is sufficiently indicative of the scope of the health services within the County.

Special reference has been made to the Diphtheria Immunisation Scheme, which is one of the health services which it has been possible to develop, notwithstanding war-time conditions. The result of the work under this scheme is reflected in the steady fall in the number of deaths from diphtheria during the last seven years.

The vital statistics disclose an increase in the birth-rate, a decline in the death-rate, and a fall in the number of notifications of pulmonary tuberculosis.

I wish to express my indebtedness to Mr. T. R. Blythe, Chief Clerk in the Public Health Office, for the interest which he has taken, and the assistance which he has given, in the preparation of this Report.

I am, Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM TAYLOR,

County Medical Officer of Health.

COUNTY HEALTH OFFICE,
COLLEGE HILL,
SHREWSBURY.

February, 1946.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1944.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres) of Administrative County	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	861,800
Population (Census 1931)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	244,156
Estimated Population	{	for Birth and Death rates	..	..	..	..	..	..	259,830
Mid Year 1944		Urban—for Birth and Death rates	..	..	..	..	..	..	131,680
		Rural—for Birth and Death rates	..	..	..	..	..	..	128,150
Number of Inhabited Houses (Census) 1931	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	59,553
Number of Families or Separate Occupiers (Census) 1931	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	60,904
Rateable Value (as at 1st April, 1944)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£1,325,556
Sum represented by a penny rate (as at 1st April, 1944)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	£5,369

Extracts from Vital Statistics of Registrar-General.

			Male.	Female.	Male and Female.	Rates.
Live Births	{	Legitimate ..	2506	2250	4756	18.30
	{	Illegitimate ..	237	210	447	1.72
	{	Total ..	2743	2460	5203	20.02—(Per 1,000 of the Population.)
Still-births : Total	..	..	69	52	121	31.93—(Per 1,000 (live and still-births.)
Deaths : Total	..	..	1561	1408	2969	11.4

Deaths of women in, or in consequence of, child-birth :—

Total	..	..	..	..	9 (or 1.7 per 1,000 live births.)
From Puerperal and Post-abortive Sepsis	..	..	..	..	3
From other Maternal causes	..	..	..	..	6

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	..	34.2
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births..	..	..	..	..	31.9
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	..	..	..	..	58.1

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	455
„ „ Measles (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	2
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	6
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	..	..	..	..	..	8
„ „ Diphtheria (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	1

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population.—The estimated population of the County at the middle of the year was, for Birth-rates and Death-rates, 259,830.

Marriages.—The number of marriages was 1,845—an increase of 40 on last year's figures (1,805).

Births.—There were 5,203 births in 1944—an increase of 288 as compared with the previous year.

The birth-rate was 20.0 per thousand of the population, or an increase of 1.2 as compared with 1943.

The birth-rate for England and Wales in 1944 was 17.6 per thousand.

Deaths.—There were 2,969 deaths in 1944—a decrease of 217 as compared with the previous year.

The death-rate was 11.4 per thousand of the population, or a decrease of 0.8 as compared with 1943.

The death-rate for England and Wales in 1944 was 11.6 per thousand.

Cancer.—There were 455 deaths from Cancer in 1944—a decrease of 39 as compared with the previous year.

The death-rate was 1.751 per thousand of the population—a decrease of 0.142 as compared with 1943.

Infant Mortality.—The infant mortality rate in 1944 was 34 per thousand live births, as compared with 36 per thousand in 1943, and is the lowest which has yet been recorded in this County.

The infant mortality rate for England and Wales in 1944 was 46 per thousand live births.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

There was a decrease in the number of cases of Infectious Disease, as will be noted on reference to the statistical table on page 4, the chief decreases being in Measles, Acute Pneumonia, and Whooping Cough. Notifications of Diphtheria were again fewer for the fourth consecutive year.

There has been no change during the year in the position in respect of the Isolation Hospital accommodation.

Return of Cases of Notifiable Infectious Diseases for the year 1944.

SANITARY DISTRICTS.	Population (Census. 1931) 244,156																
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
		SCARLET FEVER.	WHOOPING COUGH.	DIPHTHERIA (including Membranous Croup).	MEASLES (excluding Rubella).	ACUTE PNEUMONIA.	CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER.	ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS.	ACUTE POLIO- ENCEPHALITIS.	ACUTE ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA.	DYSENTERY.	OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.	PURPERAL PYREXIA.	SMALL-POX.	ENTERIC (Typhoid and Para- typhoid) Fever.	ERYSIPELAS.	CHICKEN-POX.
RURAL ..	122,491	241	341	14	409	101	1	8	—	—	43	17	28	—	5	23	—
URBAN ..	121,665	179	268	11	392	94	—	2	—	—	48	21	33	—	1	28	—
TOTALS FOR 1944 ..		420	609	25	801	195	1	10	—	—	91	38	61	—	6	51	—
TOTALS FOR 1943 ..		410	705	53	3202	350	9	5	—	1	31	48	63	—	5	34	—
Increase (+) or Decrease (—) ..		+10	—96	—28	—2401	—155	—8	+5	—	—1	+60	—10	—2	—	+1	+17	—

Diphtheria Immunisation.—The primary responsibility for the immunisation of children against Diphtheria rests with the Local Sanitary Authorities. Since 1942, however, the County Council has assumed concurrent responsibility with the District Councils for this work, and except in the Borough of Shrewsbury, which has a very complete scheme of its own, much the greater part of the diphtheria immunisation work in the County is now carried out under the County Council Scheme by the Assistant Medical Officers.

Indeed, during 1944, out of a total of 3,778 children under 15 years of age who were immunised, 2,654 were dealt with under the County Council Scheme, 586 were immunised under the Scheme for the Borough of Shrewsbury, and 538 were dealt with under arrangements made by the other District Councils.

The following table gives particulars of the children under five years of age, and of those between the ages of 5 and 15, who were immunised under the various arrangements in the County :—

Children immunised in the County of Salop during 1944.

Arrangement.	Aged under 5 years.	5—15 years.	Total.
County Council	2,169	485	2,654
Borough of Shrewsbury .. .	483	103	586
Other Districts in the County ..	431	107	538
	3,083	695	3,778

The position with regard to Diphtheria Immunisation in the County of Salop can be summarised as follows :—

On 31st December, 1944, 58.9 per cent. of children under five years of age had been immunised, and 85.9 per cent. of those between the ages of five and fifteen, giving a total for all children under fifteen years of age of 76.9 per cent.

The following table sets out in detail the numbers dealt with in the individual Districts in the County during 1944, and the percentages of those under five and between five and fifteen years of age in each District who have been rendered immune to Diphtheria—bearing in mind that immunity is a relative term.

Diphtheria Immunisation Statistics for Individual Districts in the County.

Local Authority.	Number immunised from 1st Jan., to 31st Dec., 1944.			Percentage immunised at 31st December, 1944.		
	Under 5 yrs. of age.	5—15 yrs. of age.	Total.	Under 5 yrs. of age.	5—15 yrs. of age.	0—15 yrs. of age
Shrewsbury Borough	483	103	586	58	83	74
Ellesmere Urban	33	12	45	56	95	81
Ellesmere Rural	70	8	78	42	94	80
Oswestry Borough	105	41	146	62	90	81
Oswestry Rural	210	45	255	45	93	78
Wem Urban	53	4	57	56	96	82
Wem Rural	142	53	195	40	66	58
Whitchurch Urban	61	13	74	34	84	67
Dawley Urban	93	10	103	76	88	84
Market Drayton Urban	64	24	88	76	92	86
Drayton Rural	84	12	96	37	90	72
Newport Urban	52	4	56	55	64	61
Oakengates Urban	93	14	107	40	76	64
Shifnal Rural	99	11	110	47	70	63
Wellington Urban	133	15	148	51	91	80
Wellington Rural	228	39	267	78	85	82
Bridgnorth Borough	75	57	132	42	73	63
Bridgnorth Rural	136	33	169	51	92	78
Atcham Rural	251	71	322	80	92	84
Bishop's Castle Borough	21	—	21	85	95	90
Church Stretton Urban	23	1	24	80	90	85
Clun Rural	140	22	162	80	85	78
Ludlow Borough	95	12	107	80	92	87
Ludlow Rural	154	51	205	80	90	85
Wenlock Borough	185	40	225	77	90	81
	3,083	695	3,778	58.9%	85.9%	76.9%

The effects of the Immunisation Campaign are demonstrated by statistics showing the incidence of diphtheria and the number of deaths from this disease in the County during the past ten years. These figures, which include those of the Borough of Shrewsbury, are as follows :—

Notifications of and Deaths from Diphtheria since 1934.

Year	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
Notifications	191	223	301	206	185	133	236	237	121	53	25
Deaths	9	20	20	7	19	13	11	9	6	6	1

The following table gives the number of immunisations carried out under the County Council Scheme in each year since it came into operation in 1942, and shows that a total of 13,016 children have been immunised by the Assistant Medical Officers. It will be seen that the number of children immunised during 1944 fell to 2,654, as compared with 5,888 in the previous year. The success of the immunisation campaign in previous years provides a partial, if not complete, explanation of this fall, as the number of susceptible children under the age of 15 has now been so

much reduced that the number to be immunised each year falls correspondingly. Provided that there is increasing acceptance of immunisation by the public the number of children to be dealt with each year will tend eventually to approximate more and more closely to the number of births; and it should be noted that, for this reason, it is amongst the children of school age, 85.6 per cent. of whom have been immunised, that the greatest disparity in the figures arises.

Children immunised under County Council Scheme since, and inclusive of, 1942.

Year.	Under 5 years of age.	5—15 years of age.	Total.
1942	2,949	1,525	4,474
1943	3,159	2,729	5,888
1944	2,169	485	2,654
Total (3 years) ..	8,277	4,739	13,016

Propaganda.—No local press publicity campaign in regard to this matter was conducted during the year, one such campaign having taken place in November, 1943, while another was held in January, 1945; but other efforts to encourage parents to agree to the protection of their children against this disease were continued.

A child during the first year of its life is relatively insusceptible to Diphtheria, but thereafter is more liable to contract the disease. Arrangements have therefore been made for the parents of every child (outside the Borough of Shrewsbury) on attaining the age of one year to receive a card through the County Health Department emphasising the desirability of immunisation, and to this card is attached a stamped consent form which the parent is invited to sign and return to the County Medical Officer. In addition, the Health Visitors, during their routine visits, encourage parents to have their children immunised, and propaganda is consistently carried out through the Child Welfare Centres. Letters are also sent to Heads of Schools encouraging them to bring to the attention of parents of school children the value of immunisation and the protection which it affords against Diphtheria.

VACCINATION.

The County Council is responsible for the administration of the Vaccination Acts in the whole of the Administrative County of Salop.

With a view to the correlation of the duties under the Vaccination Acts with the Maternity and Child Welfare Services, and in order to secure by centralisation of the work eventual simplification of administrative procedure, the Public Health Committee decided to appoint the Chief Clerk in the County Health Office to fill any vacancy caused by resignations of existing Vaccination Officers. The Chief Clerk now acts as Vaccination Officer for the following eight Vaccination Districts, namely, Bishop's Castle, Bridgnorth, Ellesmere, Ludlow, Madeley, Oakengates, Wellington and Wem.

The table on page 8 gives full information regarding the work under the Vaccination Acts for the year 1943, together with that for the year 1944, in so far as it is at present available. From this table it will be observed that in 1943 there were 4,536 births registered, 1,270 declarations of conscientious objection and 2,037 certificates of successful primary vaccination—the equivalent of 44.90 per cent. of the total births for the year. In 1944, when the number of births registered was 5,203, there were 1,275 declarations of conscientious objection, and the total number of certificates of primary vaccination was 2,835—the equivalent of 54.49 per cent. of the total births for the year.

The following table shows the vaccination districts with the highest and lowest percentages of vaccinations in the County :—

<i>Highest Percentages.</i>				<i>Lowest Percentages.</i>			
Clun	..	..	68.54	Ellesmere	..	..	10.83
Whitchurch	..	..	67.85	Oswestry	..	..	19.38
Church Stretton	..	..	66.66	Madeley	..	..	23.84
Drayton	..	..	66.50	Wellington	..	..	29.64

Vaccination of Infants in 1943.										Vaccination of Children in 1943 and 1944.		
VACCINATION DISTRICTS.	Births Registered.	Successfully Vaccinated.	Insusceptible of Vaccination.	Declarations of Conscientious Objections.	Died Unvaccinated.	Vaccination postponed.	Removed out of District.	Unaccounted for.	Total No. of Certificates of successful Primary Vaccination received.	No. of Declarations of Conscientious Objection actually received.		
		No. %							1943 1944	1943 1944	1943 1944	
Bridgnorth ..	289	148 51.21	—	97	9	—	11	24	182 211	94 102		
Church Stretton ..	30	20 66.66	—	9	1	—	—	—	27 79	23 14		
Cleobury Mortimer ..	80	41 51.25	—	33	2	1	1	2	67 84	28 36		
Clun ..	124	85 68.54	—	32	2	—	2	3	123 105	56 24		
Drayton ..	212	141 66.50	—	45	5	—	3	17	172 204	38 33		
Ellesmere ..	120	13 10.83	—	16	5	—	6	80	11 21	17 23		
Ludlow ..	163	75 46.01	—	57	8	—	3	20	84 137	65 59		
Madeley ..	369	88 23.84	—	147	10	—	52	72	88 110	144 130		
Newport ..	210	78 37.14	—	82	6	2	27	15	60 81	34 44		
Oswestry ..	392	76 19.38	—	110	11	1	29	165	105 134	105 106		
Shifnal ..	246	75 30.48	2	59	3	1	12	94	81 117	65 59		
Shrewsbury ..	1,415	837 59.15	3	274	41	4	133	123	630 1,059	273 323		
Wellington ..	570	169 29.64	2	217	11	—	79	92	188 240	335 228		
Wem ..	120	58 48.33	1	44	2	—	6	14	90 123	46 51		
Whitchurch ..	196	133 67.85	1	48	4	—	5	5	123 130	56 43		
TOTALS ..	4,536	2,037 44.90	9	1,270	120	9	369	726	2,031 2,835	1,379 1,275		
Percentage of total number of births for the year 1943		44.90	0.19	27.99	2.64	5.04	8.02	15.47				
.. .. 1942		42.08	0.22	27.36	2.94	0.46	14.69	12.22				

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE MEDICAL SERVICES.

There has been no fundamental change during 1944 in the arrangements for the administration of the Institutional Medical Services transferred from the late Boards of Guardians or in the matter of Public Assistance Medical Out-Relief.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Notification of Births.—In the County as a whole, inclusive of the Borough of Shrewsbury, which is an independent Maternity and Child Welfare Authority, the number of live births notified or otherwise ascertained, was 5,255, and the number of still-births was 101.

In the Borough of Shrewsbury, the number of live births was 833, and the number of still-births was 21.

In the remainder of the County (for which the County Council is the Maternity and Child Welfare Authority), the number of births was 4,422, and the number of still-births was 80.

Visits paid by Health Visitors.

Health Visiting Staff.	To Children.				To expectant mothers.
	under 1 year.		1 to 5 years.	Total.	
	First.	Total.			
Whole-time (15)	2783	15232	16826	32058	694
Part-time (54)	1615	16114	16213	32327	1 0139
Totals for 1944	4398	31346	33039	64385	10833

Attendances at Welfare Centres in 1943 and 1944.

CHILDREN.							
Under 1 year.				Between 1 and 5 years.			
New Cases.		Total Attendances.		New Cases.		Total Attendances.	
1943	1944	1943	1944	1943	1944	1943	1944
1,889	2,238	21,592	24,305	1,067	968	16,758	17,767

EXPECTANT MOTHERS.

Welfare Centres.	New Cases.		Total Cases.		Total Attendances.	
	1943	1944	1943	1944	1943	1944
Bridgnorth	60	50	70	54	142	99
Bishop's Castle ..	10	8	14	8	43	22
Church Stretton ..	32	19	36	22	90	45
Dawley	44	12	50	12	106	18
Donnington ..	19	9	20	9	43	14
Ellesmere	15	13	18	15	49	34
Highley	4	11	7	11	7	19
Ironbridge	18	22	20	41	63	48
Ludlow	67	48	69	82	139	126
Market Drayton ..	83	59	127	67	395	142
Newport	55	51	63	55	176	96
Oakengates	31	21	32	29	142	117
Oswestry	47	42	51	45	91	89
Wellington	64	93	70	100	229	268
Wem	42	39	51	54	142	143
Whitchurch	28	30	35	37	135	85
Totals	619	527	733	641	1992	1365
Increase + Decrease —	—92		—92		—627	

Under an arrangement with the Borough of Shrewsbury, 31 expectant mothers made 70 attendances, and 51 children under five years of age made 131 attendances, at the Shrewsbury Child Welfare and Ante-Natal Clinic.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.—During the year 34 cases were notified, 16 less than in the previous year. All the cases recovered with apparently no injury to the eyesight.

County Home for Ailing Babies.—The number of babies admitted to the Home was 51 (which is two less than the number admitted in the previous year), and the average duration of stay was 71 days. The average number of occupied beds was therefore 9.

Provision of Artificial Limbs.—The Child Welfare Scheme has been extended by providing, in addition to surgical treatment, artificial limbs for children under five, subject to each case being considered by the Public Health Committee on its merits.

Infestation with Head Lice.—In accordance with the request of the Ministry of Health special efforts have been made with a view to the eradication, as far as possible, of head lice. It was felt, or feared, by the Ministry that, as a result of the migration into reception areas of large numbers of evacuees from the towns, the incidence of infestation with head lice among the rural population might have increased considerably. The regular surveys which have been made of the school population by the School Nurses in this County do not, however, support the view that evacuation has produced any such result. There has, throughout the War period, up to and inclusive of 1943, been a gradual diminution in the percentage of children found to be infested with these vermin, but in the year under review the percentage rose somewhat. Thus, in 1943, the percentage of children found verminous was 8.4, this being the lowest rate recorded during the War, and it is a matter for regret that during 1944 the percentage rose to 9.1.

The most likely cause of this increase in infestation amongst school children, and probably of a parallel increase among younger children, (for which accurate figures are not, however, available), is possibly the increased employment outside the home of mothers, who consequently have less time available to devote to the care of their children. It is also possible that difficulty in procuring such articles as fine toothed combs has been partly responsible; and it is regrettable that modern fashions in hair dressing, particularly the "permanent wave," should tend to perpetuate lousiness among adults and adolescents by discouraging the washing, combing and brushing of the hair.

Instructions were issued to the Health Visitors that they should, as far as possible, try to inculcate a cleanliness conscience in all the members of the families in their districts. They were asked to inform the mothers of families not only of the necessity for keeping clean the heads of their young children, but also of the need for looking after their adolescent children in the same manner. It is recommended that among children under five years of age the hair should be cut short, and the value of regular weekly washing and daily brushing and combing of the hair is emphasised. The Health Visitors were also asked to give talks on this subject to the mothers and expectant mothers at the Centres, as well as in the homes.

Dental Treatment.—Five mothers and 9 children under five years of age received treatment from the School Dental Officers.

War-time Nurseries.—In order to facilitate the employment in industry of women with children, War-time Nurseries were opened in the County at each of the following places :—

Donnington	..	..	15th February, 1943.
Madeley	..	..	1st March, 1943.
Oakengates	..	..	} 22nd March, 1943.
Wellington	..	..

At the end of 1943, owing to the limited use which was at that time being made of these War-time Nurseries, the question of closure was considered by the Public Health Committee, and, as a result, the Nursery at Madeley was closed in February, 1944.

The table set out below shows the attendances during the year 1944 at the War-time Nurseries at Donnington, Oakengates and Wellington.

Attendances at War-time Nurseries.

Location.	Accommodation.	Average daily attendance of Children.		
		Ages 0—5 yrs.	0—2 yrs.	2—5 yrs.
Donnington	60 Children	37.5	26.2	11.3
Oakengates	50 „	16.3	5.3	11.0
Wellington	50 „	32.0	9.8	22.2

(In July, 1945, at the suggestion of the Ministry of Health, and after consideration by the Public Health Committee, it was decided to close the War-time Nurseries at Wellington and Oakengates, but to continue for a further period the Nursery at Donnington).

Child Life Protection.—The following are the particulars of cases supervised during the last seven years :—

		1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
Number of cases	—on 1st Jan.	123	112	90	84	103	92	93
Number of new cases	—during the year ..	24	24	26	66	32	31	23
	reached 9 years of age	11	20	15	14	10	8	10
No. of cases removed from Register	legally adopted ..	4	4	3	4	6	6	9
	left County	10	5	3	11	9	4	14
	removed to relatives	10	17	9	16	18	10	7
	died	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
	removed to places of safety	0	0	1	2	0	2	0
Number of cases	—on 31st Dec.	112	90	84	103	92	93	76

The following is information relating to the 76 children on the Register on the 31st December, 1944 :—

	<i>Aged under five years.</i>	<i>Aged 5 to nine years.</i>
Children notified by intending foster mothers	10	11
Children otherwise ascertained	13	23
Children supervised on behalf of Voluntary Societies ..	4	15

The number of Child Life Protection cases in the Borough of Shrewsbury on the 31st December, 1944, was 14, of whom 8 were under five years of age, and 6 between the ages of 5 and 9 years.

Midwifery Services.—In 1944 there were 176 registered midwives engaged in midwifery practice in Shropshire as compared with 181 in 1943.

Statistics relating to Work under Midwives Acts.

Year	Midwives practising in December	Visits of Inspection.	Notifications received from Midwives.					
			Medical help.	Still-birth.	Death of mother or Child.	Artificial Feeding.	Liability to be a source of infection.	Having laid out a Dead Body.
1937	242	359	1223	40	23	67	140	62
1938	202	458	1190	40	23	57	136	61
1939	233	505	1240	39	21	52	169	31
1940	221	597	1390	49	17	60	160	42
1941	185	271	1479	60	30	110	144	35
1942	173	344	1466	59	29	39	130	49
1943	181	335	1402	56	35	137	200	35
1944	176	336	1484	70	44	138	203	31

Maternal Deaths.—In 1944 there were in Shropshire 7 maternal deaths directly or indirectly due to pregnancy. In 4 of these cases a doctor had been engaged prior to the confinement.

The Maternal Death-rate in this County, according to the official returns of the Registrar-General, was 1.7 per thousand live births, as compared with 2.2 per thousand for the previous year.

The Maternal Death-rate for England and Wales for 1944 was 1.93 per thousand live births, and 2.29 for 1943.

The following table gives particulars relating to maternal deaths in this County since 1930, and it will be observed that 99 deaths out of a total of 248 were the result of a first pregnancy. This fact brings out the importance of attendance to the health and general well-being of the mother who is approaching her first confinement.

Maternal Deaths 1930 to 1944.

	Causes of Death Investigated.				Death-rate per 1,000 live births.		
	All causes.	Puerperal Pyrexia.	Other.	Number in first confinement.	Shropshire.		England and Wales.
					Local Statistics.	Official Statistics.	
Total (1930—42) ..	228	77	151	93	4.21	4.02	..
1943	13	1	12	3	2.6	2.2	2.29
1944	7	2	5	3	1.3	1.7	1.93

Payments to Medical Practitioners under Midwives Acts.—The number of claims for payment under the Midwives Acts sent in by medical practitioners was 629, and payments amounting to £1,200 were made during 1944. During the previous year the claims numbered 630, and payments totalled £1,229.

Obstetrical Consultant.—During the year the opinion of the County Council Obstetrical Consultant was sought in 20 confinement cases.

Puerperal Pyrexia.—During the year 70 cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified, three of whom died. In the previous year 81 cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified, one of whom died.

Pemphigus.—Eleven cases of Pemphigus occurred during the year. There were no deaths.

MATERNITY AND NURSING HOMES.

Registration.—The local Supervising Authority has power to grant exemption from registration in certain cases, and registration has not been insisted upon in the case of the following Institutions :—

Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital, Shrewsbury.
 King Edward VII Memorial Sanatorium, Shirlett.
 Lady Forester Hospitals, Broseley and Much Wenlock.
 Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital, Oswestry.
 Royal Salop Infirmary, Shrewsbury.
 Cottage Hospital, Market Drayton.

Inspection.—Nursing Homes are visited regularly by the Inspector of Midwives, and an effort is made to visit each Home once a quarter. During the year 117 inspections were made.

Accommodation Provided.—During the year 1944 one new Nursing Home was registered and two certificates were cancelled.

Number of Homes taking general cases only	9
Patient accommodation—91 beds and 2 cots.	
Number of Homes taking maternity cases only	4
Patient accommodation—16 beds.	
Number of Homes taking both maternity and general cases	14
Patient accommodation—188 beds and 2 cots.	

In all, therefore, there are 27 Homes on the Register, the total patient accommodation being 295 beds and 4 cots.

COUNTY COUNCIL HOSPITAL.

The table below summarises the work carried out at the County Council Hospital during 1944. The figures for 1943 are given for purposes of comparison.

Cases treated in the County Council Hospital during 1943 and 1944.

	Men.		Women.		Maternity.		Children 5—16		Under 5.		Totals.	
	1943	1944	1943	1944	1943	1944	1943	1944	1943	1944	1943	1944
Cases (1st January) ..	31	24	34	41	29	37	2	5	7	7	103	114
Admissions	259	443	452	495	519	656	44	79	91	102	1365	1775
Discharges	188	371	403	470	509	650	38	80	83	87	1221	1658
Deaths	78	63	42	46	2	2	3	1	8	10	133	122
Cases (31st December) ..	24	33	41	20	37	41	5	3	7	12	114	109

The average number of occupied beds for 1944 was 123, as compared with 105 for the previous year. In order to give some indication of the nature of the work carried out at the County Council Hospital, these have been broadly categorised in the table below. There is an increasing demand on the accommodation for maternity patients, and admissions have now been restricted to abnormal cases and to women who, owing to home circumstances, cannot properly be confined in their own homes.

Beds occupied in 1944.							1943.
	Men.	Women.	Maternity.	Children		All cases.	All cases.
				Under 5.	5—16.		
Average ..	43	36	32	8	4	123	105
Highest ..	114	50	46	15	14	191	130
Lowest ..	18	21	18	4	1	91	80

Midwifery.—The number of women confined in the County Council Hospital in 1944 was 656, as compared with 519 in the previous year. There were two maternal deaths—one due to Puerperal Pyrexia and the other to Haemorrhage following Caesarean section.

The number of babies born was 644 (24 twins), amongst whom there were 12 deaths due to the following causes :—Prematurity 8 ; Asphyxia 1 ; Cerebral Haemorrhage 1 ; Broncho-Pneumonia 1 ; Icterus Neonatorum 1.

The number of still-births was 24.

An Ante-Natal Clinic is held every Saturday morning in Shrewsbury, where all booked cases attend periodically for examination and advice. The average number in attendance was 25 per session.

Other Work.—The number of surgical operations (major and minor) was 332.

Twelve beds are provided in shelters for patients suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, who, because they are either highly infectious or in an advanced stage of the disease, cannot properly be looked after at home. Particulars of these cases are as follows :—

	In Hospital, 1st Jan.	Admitted.	Discharged.	Died.	In Hospital, 31st Dec.
Pulmonary—Males	6	15	10	8	3
Females	1	10	6	2	3
Children	1	1	—	2	—

TUBERCULOSIS.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis.—During the year, 155 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified, which is 58 less than in the previous year, and the number of deaths from this form of the disease decreased by 18.

Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.—In the case of other forms of the disease, the number of notifications for 1944 was 95, or 39 less than in the previous year ; and there was also a decrease of 5 in the number of deaths.

Particulars of Notifications of, and Deaths from, both forms of the disease are as follows :—

Notifications of, and Deaths from, Tuberculosis (Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary). 1944.

Age periods of cases.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	0
1—5	2	1	9	8	1	1	1	0
5—15	0	1	19	16	0	3	1	1
15—25	16	25	12	10	7	8	0	1
25—35	28	15	4	3	11	9	3	0
35—45	23	12	5	4	20	9	0	0
45—55	10	2	0	0	10	5	0	1
55—65	8	6	2	2	10	4	1	3
65 and upwards	4	1	0	0	5	4	0	1
	92	63	51	44	65	43	7	7
TOTALS FOR 1944 ..	155		95		108		14	
TOTALS FOR 1943 ..	213		134		126		19	

Pulmonary Tuberculosis—Notifications and Death Rates since 1938.

Year.	Notifications.	Deaths.	Population.	Rates per 1,000.	
				Notifications.	Deaths.
1938	164	71	241,400	.68	.29
1939	156	91	*244,900	.63	.36
			†249,500		
1940	198	72	257,170	.76	.27
1941	246	109	276,920	.88	.39
1942	208	91	268,900	.77	.33
1943	213	126	260,900	.81	.48
1944	155	108	259,830	.59	.41

*Estimated population for Birth-rate purposes.

†Estimated population for Death-rate purposes.

Allowances to Patients (Pulmonary Tuberculosis).—During the year ended 31st December, 1944, allowances were granted to 61 patients for the first time, and of these, 42 received Maintenance Allowances only, 10 received both Maintenance and Discretionary Allowances, and 9 received Special Payments.

Discretionary Allowances are awarded to enable patients to meet standing charges such as high rent, insurance and educational fees.

Special Payments include allowances in respect of pocket money made to single persons while in the Sanatorium; allowances to married women to assist them to provide domestic help in their homes while they themselves are receiving treatment in the Sanatorium; and grants to patients' relatives to enable them to visit the Sanatorium.

Below are particulars of payments being made on the 31st December, 1943, and 31st December, 1944.

	31st December, 1943.	31st December, 1944.
Number receiving Maintenance Allowances	30	38
Number of above also receiving Discretionary Allowances ..	3	9
Number receiving Special Payments—		
(a) pocket money	6	8
(b) provision of domestic help	6	1

Visits of Tuberculosis Officers.

	1943	1944
On notification	19	110
To contacts	33	30
To suspicious cases	233	204
On discharge from Sanatorium	11	7
Other occasions	188	100
	<hr/> 484	<hr/> 451

Examination of Sputum.—The total number of sputum examinations during the year was 991, as compared with 870 in the previous year.

Shelters.—There are at present 140 shelters in the County, 131 of which have been provided by the County Council.

Artificial Pneumothorax.—Artificial pneumothorax was induced in 20 new cases, and there are now 109 patients who regularly attend the Treatment Centres.

Particulars of Patients receiving Artificial Pneumothorax Treatment.

Centre.	No. of cases treated.	No. of refills given.
Shrewsbury Tuberculosis Dispensary	62	826
Wellington Public Assistance Institution	42	861
Shirlett Sanatorium (out-patients)	5	72
	109	1759

X-Ray Examination.—During 1944, two thousand and sixty-six X-Ray Films were taken, an increase of two hundred and thirty over the previous year.

Light Therapy.—During the year 22 cases attended, and 650 treatments were given.

Tuberculosis of Bones and Joints.—Such cases are dealt with under the Orthopaedic scheme.

Tubercular Peritonitis.—An arrangement has been made with the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital for the treatment of patients suffering from tubercular peritonitis. The number of cases sent for treatment during the year was 2.

Prees Heath Sanatorium.—During the year 9 cases were admitted to Prees Heath Sanatorium, 6 were discharged and 4 died.

Shirlett Sanatorium.—The following are the particulars of admissions, discharges and deaths during 1944 :—

	Admitted.	Discharged.	Died.
Adults—			
Males	44	46	2
Females	31	25	5
Children—			
Boys	1	—	—
Girls	1	2	—
	77	73	7

Tuberculosis Dispensaries.—There continues to be a steady increase in the number of attendances at the various Tuberculosis Dispensaries and Examination Centres, the total for 1944 being 7,984, as compared with 7,655 in the previous year.

Attendances at Tuberculosis Dispensaries in 1944.

TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARIES.	No. of Cases who attended during the year.		SUMMARY OF ATTENDANCES.			Total Attend- ances.
	Total.	For the first time.	Notified Cases.	Non-notified Cases.		
				Contacts.	Suspects.	
Shrewsbury	986	612	1776	242	865	2883
Oswestry	218	99	708	32	146	886
Wellington	838	522	2813	220	640	3673
Whitchurch	89	46	34	54	117	205
Ludlow	64	41	54	26	38	118
Bridgnorth	120	60	122	45	52	219
	2315	1380	5507	619	1858	7984

In addition, under an arrangement made by the Church Stretton Care Committee, 3 sessions were held for examination of contacts and 36 attendances made.

Arrangements are also made for a Clinic to be held at Market Drayton at intervals, to encourage the attendance of persons who find that travelling difficulties prevent their coming to Shrewsbury or Wellington. Three sessions were held and 47 attendances made.

Dr. Watkin writes :—"From year to year there continues to be a remarkable increase in the work done at the County Tuberculosis Clinics. Comparing 1944 with 1935 (the first complete year in which our X-Ray apparatus was functioning) one finds as follows :—

	X-Ray Examinations.	Artificial Pneumothorax Refills.	New Cases Examined.
1935 ..	582	252	590
1944 ..	2066	1687	1380

"The larger attendances for examination are evidence, not of an increase in Tuberculosis, but of a greater realisation on the part of Medical Practitioners and public of the importance of early diagnosis and of the facilities available at the Tuberculosis Clinics.

"The next big forward step in the campaign against Tuberculosis is likely to be Mass Miniature Radiography. This has been introduced on a limited scale by the Ministry of Health during the present war, but a set of the special apparatus has not up to the present been available for Shropshire. When the present difficulties relax it would seem desirable to make plans either for the provision of a set, and a team of operators in Shropshire, or for seeking a working arrangement between this and some neighbouring County. In Lancashire, of the first 19,240 persons examined by mass radiography, 3.5 per thousand were found to have active Tuberculosis, 1.6 per thousand having Tubercle Bacilli in the sputum. The investigation dealt mainly with employees in industrial establishments, a high proportion of whom would probably belong to age groups in which Tuberculosis is most prevalent, and the percentage of Tuberculosis in the population as a whole would not be so large, but the figures give some idea of the number of undiscovered cases there are likely to be in Shropshire. A fully working mass radiography scheme would almost certainly necessitate some increase in the number of Sanatorium beds for treatment."

Dr. Elliott writes :—"The year 1944 shows a decrease in both the incidence and mortality from Tuberculosis. The number of new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis showed a decrease of 58, with 18 fewer deaths than in 1943, whilst in other forms of the disease there was a decrease of 39 new cases, with 5 fewer deaths.

"When one considers the worry, strain, and long hours of work of the people after five years of war conditions, with the lack of open air exercise and the lack of proper ventilation in many houses and workplaces owing to black-out conditions, one cannot help feeling that these decreases in the incidence and mortality of Tuberculosis in Shropshire are very satisfactory.

"If one compares the figures for the incidence and mortality in the last four years of the 1914—1918 War, *i.e.*, 1915—1918 inclusive, with the figures of the present war, 1941—1944 inclusive, one gets an even happier picture. In the years 1915—1918 there were 1,574 new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, with 790 deaths. In the years 1941—1944 there were 822 new cases, with 434 deaths. This shows a decrease of 48 per cent. in the number of new cases, and a decrease of 45 per cent. in the deaths.

"These figures are perhaps even more satisfactory than they appear if one takes into account the increase in the population of the County during the War years by evacuees. One has, however, to bear in mind that more accurate modern methods of diagnosis, such as X-Ray, may have had some small effect on the decrease in the number of notifications.

"Although these figures show that thirty years anti-Tuberculosis work has given good results, these could have been better, and one of our main difficulties lies with the people themselves. In far too many cases people, fail to seek medical advice until the disease has advanced to an incurable stage. The general public, thanks to propaganda work by the Press and the B.B.C., are however, now seeking advice at an earlier stage.

"To-day, early Tuberculosis, with the advance in new methods of treatment, is definitely curable, and again early treatment means that a patient is rendered non-infectious, and thus is no longer a danger to his family ; so, early diagnosis and treatment is one of the greatest factors in the prevention and cure of Tuberculosis.

"Mass Miniature Radiography of the population will prove a great help in the detection of these early cases, but X-Ray plants for this purpose are not available, nor the personnel to work them, until things become more normal.

"In the annual report for 1941, writing on Mass Radiography, I said : "In the meantime a great deal can be done if people will only realise that a cough which lasts longer than an ordinary cold, requires investigation. That Pleurisy,—often called 'a stitch in the side'—is often a symptom of early Tuberculosis, as is also blood spitting, or a feeling of being run down. If people would only consult their doctor about these symptoms in time, many cases would be discovered in an early and more curable stage of the disease."

ORTHOPAEDIC SCHEME.

There is a Central Hospital at Park Hall, Oswestry, and After-Care Clinics are held weekly at Oswestry, Shrewsbury and Wellington ; fortnightly at Bridgnorth, Craven Arms, Dawley, Ellesmere, Ironbridge, Ludlow, Market Drayton, Wem and Whitchurch ; and monthly at Newport and Oakengates.

Attendances at Clinics.—The following table gives particulars of the attendances at the Orthopaedic Clinics during 1944. The tuberculous cases, which are of all ages, are the smallest in number, but their attendances at the Clinics extend as a rule over a very prolonged period.

Attendances at Orthopaedic After-Care Clinics, 1944.

Age Groups.	On Books 1/1/44.	Admitted during 1944.	No. treated. during 1944.	Discharged during 1944.	On Books 31/12/44.	On Appliance Supervision 31/12/44.	Attendances during 1944.
Under 5 years ..	541	316	857	289	568	0	1,573
5—16 years ..	971	515	1,486	421	1,059	6	3,271
Over 16 years ..	1,028	544	1,572	462	873	237	2,839
T.B. cases, (all ages)	145	27	172	31	109	32	654
Totals ..	2,685	1,402	4,087	1,203	2,609	275	8,337

It will be observed that 4,087 patients are stated to have been treated during 1944, but as 126 of these have been included in more than one group, the actual figure should be regarded as 3,961. In addition, 171 cases for whom treatment was not found to be necessary were examined by the Orthopaedic Surgeon, and these have not been included amongst the attendances at the After-Care Centres.

Hospital Patients.—Persons suffering from conditions and defects of such a nature that they cannot be adequately dealt with at the After-Care Centres are admitted for treatment to the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital. Particulars of cases, both Public Health and Education, admitted to Hospital for treatment in 1944 are given in the table below.

Cases admitted to the Orthopaedic Hospital in 1944.

Disease.	Under 5 years of age.	5—16 years of age.	Over 16 years of age.	Total.
Tuberculosis	1	5	16	22
Osteomyelitis	—	8	—	8
Congenital Defects and Deformities	8	8	—	16
Acquired Deformities	2	20	3	25
Injuries (Bones and Joints)	4	12	5	21
Arthritis	1	1	2	4
Poliomyelitis	—	4	2	6
Other Nerve Lesions	—	1	—	1
Total for 1944	16	59	28	103
Total for 1943	21	75	23	119

During the first five years of the operation of the Orthopaedic Scheme in this County, the average number of beds occupied by patients for whom the Public Health Committee had accepted responsibility was 62, but as a result principally of the After-Care Scheme, this has fallen to an average of 38 for the four years 1941—1944.

Particulars of the numbers of beds occupied are given in the table below. It should be noted, however, that as the Public Assistance Committee was responsible for the treatment of non-tuberculous patients above the age of 16 until May, 1942, when the Public Health Committee accepted responsibility for them, the average number of beds occupied by this particular group has been given separately under the heading “Non-Tuberculous Adults,” as, otherwise, they would vitiate the comparative value of the figures in the Table.

Beds occupied by Shropshire Patients during the period 1921—1944.

	Averages.					Totals for the years			
	1921—25	1926—30	1931—35	1936—40	1941—44	1941	1942	1943	1944
Tuberculosis (all ages) ..	40	33	27	27	21	19	17	25	24
Medical Inspection ..	14	13	11	17	12	11	13	15	10
Child Welfare	8	5	3	5	5	4	7	6	4
Totals	62	51	41	49	38	34	37	46	38
Non-tuberculous Adults ..	—	—	—	7	5	6	4	5	4

The cost to the County Council of Hospital treatment of Orthopaedic cases is as shown below, but again, in order to make the figures comparable, the cost of non-tuberculous patients above the age of 16 has been given separately.

Cost of Treatment in Orthopaedic Hospital.

Scheme.	Averages.				Years			
	1926—30	1931—35	1936—40	1941—44	1941	1942	1943	1944
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Tuberculosis	4269	3122	3567	2840	2857	2582	2850	3073
Medical Inspection ..	1608	1323	1626	1668	1415	1574	1753	1931
Child Welfare	778	331	452	870	833	716	912	1022
Annual Average Cost ..	6655	4776	5645	5378	5105	4872	5515	6026
Non-tuberculous Adults ..	—	—	*856	503	324	606	370	713

*This amount represents the average annual cost of treatment for the period 1938—40. Non-tuberculous adult cases admitted to the Orthopaedic Hospital were, until 1st May, 1938, the responsibility of the Public Assistance Committee.

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1936—1943.

Licences.—At the end of the year 177 licences to produce Tuberculin-Tested Milk and 620 licences to produce Accredited Milk had been issued by the County Council—an increase of 66 in the number of Tuberculin-Tested Licences and a fall of 68 in the number of Accredited Licences.

In addition, Bottling Licences were also granted by the County Council to 16 producers of Tuberculin-Tested Milk and to 20 producers of Accredited Milk.

The Licensing position, as compared with previous years, is as given below. The variation in the figures for 1944 is largely accounted for by the graduation of producers of Accredited Milk to the production of milk of Tuberculin-Tested standard.

	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
Tuberculin Tested ..	15	20	20	36	57	71	75	77	84	111	177
*Accredited	14	390	533	542	595	689	675	666	677	652	620

* Previous to 1936 its equivalent was designated "Grade A" Milk.

Dairy Herds in the County.—It may be of interest to compare the number of designated and undesignated herds in the County, and to this end the following information has been obtained from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. The figures relate to the year ending 31st March, 1945, and so are not completely identical with the licensing figures given for 31st December, 1944.

Number of Tuberculin-Tested and Attested Herds ..	180
„ „ Accredited Herds	620
Total Number of Designated Herds	800
Number of Undesignated Herds	4,869
	5,669

Examination of Milk—Routine Sampling.—Of 267 samples of Tuberculin-Tested milk, 82 proved unsatisfactory, and of 1,824 samples of Accredited milk, 580 were unsatisfactory. In addition, 160 “Qualifying” samples of milk were collected, 44 of which were unsatisfactory.

The following is a summary of the numbers of samples taken and the results of examination of these samples :—

Designation.	Total Samples.	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory.
Tuberculin-Tested Milk	267	185	82
Accredited Milk	1824	1244	580

Disciplinary Action.—The Milk (Special Designations) Committee considered the milk sampling records of 38 designated milk producers from whose premises three consecutive unsatisfactory samples had been collected ; and of these, 18 Accredited producers and 2 Tuberculin-Tested producers were warned. In addition, 14 Accredited Licences and 4 Tuberculin-Tested Licences were suspended.

Tuberculous Milk.—During the year, 19 reports were received from Medical Officers of Health that tubercle bacilli had been found in milk produced in this County. The herds involved in these complaints were examined, and 21 cows were dealt with under the Tuberculosis Order.

Inspection of Premises.—The County Sanitary Inspectors made 1,567 visits to farms during the year.

School Milk.—Out of a total of 320 schools in the County (representing 22,617 children), 298 schools (*i.e.*, 15,889 children) are supplied daily with fresh milk under the Milk in Schools scheme. That is, 93.1 per cent. of the schools and 70.2 per cent. of the children in the County are included in the scheme.

The milk supplied is obtained, wherever possible, from designated producers, viz. : Tuberculin-Tested (80 schools), Accredited (112 schools), and Pasteurised (71 schools).

Undesignated milk is supplied to 35 schools by approved producers whose farms have been inspected by the County Sanitary Inspectors and whose herds are regularly examined by the Veterinary Inspectors of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

During the year, 9 new suppliers were approved and 6 schools were incorporated in the Milk in Schools scheme for the first time.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

During the year, 348 samples were collected, 319 being samples of milk and the remainder being samples of foods other than milk.

Of these, 119 samples were found on analysis to be not genuine (117 being milk samples, 1 being a sample of Whisky and 1 a sample of Lime Fruit Flavour Cordial). Appropriate action was taken in each case, and in 17 instances Court proceedings followed, resulting in fines ranging from £1 10s. 0d. to £20, exclusive of costs.

Details of all samples are given below :—

Description of Samples.	Number of Samples taken.				
	Total.	Formal.		Informal.	
		Genuine.	Non-Gen.	Genuine.	Non-Gen.
Milk	323	189	116	18	—
Powdered Gelatine	2	—	—	2	—
Flowers of Sulphur	1	—	—	1	—
Glauber Salts	1	—	—	1	—
Sal Volatile	1	—	—	—	1
Eucalyptus Oil	1	—	—	1	—
Dry Gin	1	1	—	—	—
Whiskey	4	3	1	—	—
Lime Fruit Flavour Cordial	1	—	1	—	—
Cider, Sweet	2	2	—	—	—
Sardine and Tomato Paste	1	—	—	1	—
Salmon and Shrimp Paste	1	—	—	1	—
Soda Bicarbonate	2	—	—	2	—
Sage and Onion Stuffing	2	—	—	2	—
Sponge Cake and Pudding Mixture	1	—	—	1	—
Chocolate and Blancmange Mixture	1	—	—	1	—
Lemon Essence	1	—	—	1	—
Lemon Flavouring	1	—	—	1	—
Totals	347	195	118	33	1

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE COUNTY.

Following the decision of the Public Health Committee that fuller information concerning the sanitary circumstances in the individual Districts, and in the County as a whole, should be available to them, the following letter was sent to the District Medical Officers of Health in August, 1944 :—

“I have been instructed by my Council to issue an Annual Questionnaire to Medical Officers of Health of the County Districts, in order to be in a position to keep the County Council informed of the sanitary circumstances in the various districts in the County, and I enclose herewith Questionnaires relating to Water, Sewage and Housing, as it is anticipated that you will now be able to supply the information which will represent the position relative to these matters at the end of 1943.

“In order not to place unnecessary demands on the labour and time of the officials who may be concerned, these Questionnaires have been made as simple and short as possible ; and I should be very much obliged if you could kindly see your way to supply the information asked for at an early date.

“If up-to-date information is not available regarding certain of the items—I have in mind the Questionnaire relating to Housing particularly—would you please give the latest information which is available, the year being given in brackets.”

Questionnaires :—The Questionnaires which accompanied the above letter were as given below, and the information supplied by the District Medical Officers of Health in regard to Water, Sewage and Housing has been summarised in tabular form on pages 24 and 25.

WATER.	1.	Total number of houses (1943)	..	..	..	..	..	.....
	2.	Number of houses with piped supply	..	..	..	..	..	.....
	3.	Nature of supply to remaining houses	..	..	..	..	..	.....

SEWAGE.	1.	Number of houses in district (1943)	..	..	..	..
	2.	Number of houses connected to Sewer	..	..	..	..
	3.	Number of other houses connected to satisfactory Sewage Disposal Works	..	..	..	..

HOUSING.	1.	Number of houses in district (1943)	..	..	..	..
	2.	.. .. fit for human habitation	..	..	..	..
	3.	.. .. requiring minor repairs	..	..	..	..
	4.	.. .. requiring reconditioning	..	..	..	..
	5.	.. .. which should be demolished	..	..	..	..
	6.	.. .. needed to replace those demolished and to relieve overcrowding	..	..	..	..

Summary of Answers to Questionnaire on Water and Sewage.

Medical Officer and District.	Houses in District.	SEWAGE DISPOSAL.		WATER SUPPLIES.	
		Connected to sewer.	Other satisfactory sewage disposal	Piped Supply.	Supply to remaining houses.
Dr. Dickson.					
Bridgnorth Borough	1,685	1,530	Nil	1,630	Wells and Springs.
.. Rural ..	3,438	2,575	100†	762	.. ..
Dr. Evans.					
Oswestry Borough ..	2,931	2,900	10	2,901	Wells.
Ellesmere Urban ..	590	581	5	590	..
Wem ..	658	624	34	656	..
Whitchurch ..	1,899	1,724†	24	1,849	..
Ellesmere Rural ..	1,713	Nil	—	362	.. and Springs.
Oswestry ..	4,229	1,165	28	2,153	.. ..
Wem ..	3,004	Nil	260	474	..
Dr. Gregory.					
Bishop's Castle Borough	396	353	12	374	.. ..
Ludlow ..	1,553	1,350†	—	1,553†	.. —very few.
Wenlock ..	4,329	3,000	—	3,360†	.. and Springs.
Church Stretton Urban	684	475	Nil	628	.. ..
Atcham Rural ..	5,285	530	—	2,600	.. ..
Clun ..	2,871	—	—	1,400†	.. Springs, Streams
Ludlow ..	3,850	450†	—	1,246	.. ..
Dr. Stewart.					
Dawley Urban ..	2,179	1,265	Nil	1,894	Standpipes from mains.
Market Drayton Urban	1,470	1,372	88	1,460	Wells.
Newport ..	976	967	Nil	974	..
Oakengates ..	3,000	2,500	6	3,000	..
Wellington ..	2,769	2,733	12	2,757	..
Drayton Rural ..	2,319	138	79	881	..
Shifnal ..	2,586	1,500	56	1,980	.. and Springs.
Wellington ..	5,400	2,426	8	4,194	.. Springs, Boreholes.
Dr. Symons.					
Shrewsbury Borough	11,400	10,967	254	11,188	..

† Approximate.

— Figures not available.

Summary of Answers to Questionnaire on Housing.

Medical Officer and District.	Population (1931 Census).	Houses in District.	Fit.	Minor Repairs.	Reconditioning.	Demolition.	Replacement.
Dr. Dickson.							
Bridgnorth Borough † ..	5,295	1,685	750	400	150	400	500
„ Rural .. † ..	12,616	3,438	2,000	850	300	300	400
Dr. Evans.							
Oswestry Borough	9,961	2,931	2,300	700	350	250	300
Ellesmere Urban	1,872	590	563	35	15	12	100
Wem „	2,255	658	638	20	50	20	25
Whitchurch „ .. † ..	6,174	1,899	1,319	100	50	200	230
Ellesmere Rural .. † ..	6,684	1,713	1,500	—	100	50	80
Oswestry „ .. † ..	16,569	4,229	4,119	—	200	110	130
Wem „ .. † ..	10,273	3,004	2,060	27	30	69	80
Dr. Gregory.							
Bishop's Castle Borough † ..	1,352	396	301*	95*	Nil	Nil	—
Ludlow Borough .. † ..	5,823	1,553	1,343	100	50	60*	83*
Wenlock „ .. † ..	14,149	4,329	3,900	—	—	150	150
Church Stretton Urban	2,398	684	678	6	Nil	Nil	Nil
Atcham Rural	19,576	5,285	—	—	—	—	—
Clun „	10,673	2,871	—	—	—	—	—
Ludlow „	14,511	3,850	—	—	—	—	—
Dr. Stewart.							
Dawley Urban	7,669	2,179	1,269	307	108	495	543
Market Drayton Urban	4,749	1,470	1,337	53*	45*	88*	200
Newport „ .. † ..	3,437	976*	674*	72*	90*	140*	150*
Oakengates „	11,249	3,000	1,475	275	550	700	1,200
Wellington „ .. † ..	8,550	2,769	1,816	340	418	195	275
Drayton Rural .. † ..	7,888	2,319	463	1,392	232	232	250
Shifnal „	7,583	2,586	—	—	—	—	—
Wellington „	16,118	5,400	—	—	—	126	—
Dr. Symons.							
Shrewsbury Borough	36,732	11,400	—	—	—	943	—

† Medical Officer of Health indicated that figures were approximate.

* 1939 figures. — Figures not available.

WATER SUPPLIES.

No new grants towards the capital cost of schemes of water supply have been sanctioned during the year by the County Council under Section 307 of the Public Health Act, 1936, and several schemes previously approved for grant under this Section have been postponed as a result of the War.

The table on page 27 gives particulars of the grants which have been paid or promised by the County Council in respect of schemes of water supply, from which it will be seen that the County Council has approved the payment of grants up to a possible total of £48,123, towards the capital cost of new schemes, the actual or estimated cost of which amounts to a total of £155,839.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL SCHEMES.

One application for a County Council contribution towards the cost of a sewage scheme was received during the year 1944. This was made by the Shifnal Rural District Council in respect of the Albrighton Scheme, and the County Council agreed to contribute 25 per cent. of the estimated nett capital cost of £11,628, up to a maximum of £2,907.

As in the case of water supplies, the majority of the schemes of sewerage and sewage disposal, which were approved for purposes of grant, have been postponed as a result of the War, and the particulars of the grants paid or promised by the County Council in respect of approved schemes are given in the table on page 28. From this table it will be seen that the County Council has approved the payment of grants amounting to a possible total of £31,851, towards the actual or estimated capital cost of new schemes of sewerage and sewage disposal, the total cost of which amounts to £157,423.

HOUSING.

The administration of the various Housing Acts is the responsibility of the District Councils, the County Council's functions being mainly supervisory.

Housing Act, 1936.—Under Section 88 of the Act, it is a special duty of the County Council to have constant regard to the housing conditions of persons of the working classes within the Rural Districts, and to obtain information regarding conditions of, and progress in, housing through the medium of returns to be supplied at least annually by the Councils of the Districts.

Under Section 115, it was the duty of the County Council, prior to 1st January, 1939, to contribute to a Rural District Council £1 per house for a period of 40 years in respect of each new house built to meet the needs of the agricultural population; but since that date the payments to be made by the County Council are as required by the Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1938, under which this section of the Act of 1936 has been repealed.

Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1938.—This Act amends the law with respect to the making of contributions by the Minister of Health and County Councils, and may be cited together with the Housing Act, 1936, as the Housing Acts, 1936 and 1938.

In respect of each new house completed after 31st December, 1939, by any Council of a County District, the Minister may pay an annual contribution for 40 years of either £5 10s. 0d. or £6 10s. 0d. under Section 1, or £10 for the same period under Section 2; and in such case the County Council are obliged, by Section 7 of the Act, to make a contribution of £1 for 40 years to the Local Authority. (In exceptional circumstances the Minister may increase the contribution under Section 2 to £12 per annum, in which case the annual payment by the County Council will be proportionately increased.)

Grants under Housing Acts, 1936—1938.

District Council.	No. of Houses.	County Council Grant.	
		Period (Yrs.)	Paid to date.
Wenlock Borough ..	6	40	£ 36
Atcham Rural	36	40	169
Clun	37	40	164
Drayton	42	40	239
Ellesmere	54	40	304
Oswestry	12	40	124
Wellington	34	40	167
	221		£1,203

WATER SCHEMES—COUNTY COUNCIL GRANTS.

District.	Scheme.	Approved by C.C.	Scope of Scheme		Esti- mated Cost.	Ministry Grant.	Loan.		Annual Charges.		County Council Grant.		
			No. of Houses.	Inhab- itants.			Author- ised.	Period (Yrs.)	Loan.	Main- tenance	Basis.	Max- imum.	Paid to date.
Atcham R.	Pimhill	4/5/35	288	1,152	£ 16,300	£ 2,500	£ 14,820	30	£ —	£ —	50% annual deficit	£ 6,675	£ 1,522
	West Atcham	2/5/36	1,876	7,596	75,100	15,000	57,297	30	4,285	700	,,	24,000	4,287
Bridgnorth R.	Stottesdon	6/11/37	28	100	2,660	250	3,100	30	153	50	Block Grant	250	250
	Kinlet	6/11/37	27	100	1,350	150		30	48	30	,,	150	150
Clun R.	Bucknell	27/7/35	72	280	2,915	200	—	25	169	20	50% annual deficit	885	81
	Worthen and Brockton	1/5/37	88	350	4,500	400	4,100	30	—	—	,,	1,245	291
Drayton R.	Kempton	1/2/36	31	110	2,200	250	1,650	30	—	—	Block Grant	300	300
	*Wentnor Norbury Myndtown	4/2/39	50	190	3,500	75	—	30	188	15	15% annual deficit	—	*
Oswestry R.	Woore	3/11/34	137	524	4,080	—	3,655	30	189	378	50% annual deficit	885	275
	Hodnet	4/5/35	118	400	3,887 (Actual)	450	425	25	—	—	—	900	900
Ludlow R.	Ightfield	7/11/36	119	468	6,550	75	6,475	30	—	—	50% annual deficit	3,179	652
	Norton-in-Hales	24/7/37	67	200	1,970	—	1,505	30	106	127	,,	1,656	278
Oswestry R.	Clee Hill	6/11/37	511	1,930	5,516	—	5,516	30	317	108	33½% annual deficit	1,837	309
	Weston Rhyn	2/2/35	—	—	900	150	750	30	58	—	Block Grant	150	150
Wellington R.	Llanymynech	2/11/35	93	372	8,500	1,850	—	—	—	—	,,	1,850	1,850
	Nantmawr	7/11/36	27	108	1,268	—	1,160	30	68	5	50% annual deficit	639	106
Wellington R.	Gronwen	7/11/36	10	40	437	—	373	30	23	2	,,	225	21
	Llynclys	7/11/36	24	96	783	—	746	30	14	5	,,	415	69
Wellington R.	Selattyn (Ext'n)	7/11/36	1,186	4,744	1,748	—	1,748	30	92	277	,,	2,032	203
	*Pentre	7/11/36	28	112	1,469	75	—	—	69	27	,,	—	*
Wellington R.	*Ruyton-xi-Towns	7/11/36	114	456	4,556	175	—	—	230	68	,,	—	*
	Edgmond	2/11/35	200	800	5,350	850	—	—	—	—	Block Grant	850	850
					£155,839								
											£48,123	£12,544	

SEWERAGE SCHEMES COUNTY COUNCIL GRANTS.

District	Scheme.	Approved by C.C.	Scope of Scheme.		Esti- mated Cost.	Loan.		Annual Charges.		County Council Grant.		
			No. of Houses.	Inhab- itants.		Author- ised.	Period.	Loan.	Main- tenance.	Basis.	Maxi- mum.	Paid to date.
Wenlock B.	Broseley ..	4/2/39	540	2,200	£ 8,800	£ 8,800	30	£ 485	£ 200	15% Cost	£ 1,320	£ 1,320
Dawley U.	Dawley ..	4/2/39	1,535	5,117	40,960	38,600 2,360	30 15	2,340	300	20% „	8,200	—
Ludlow R.	Cleobury Mortimer ..	4/2/39	242	968	6,250	6,250	30	327	65	15% „	937	—
Oswestry R.	Weston Rhyn ..	4/2/39	314	1,256	13,500	13,500	30	741	223	15% „	2,025	—
Shifnal R.	Albrighton ..	4/11/44	783	2,800	11,628	10,805 669 154	30 15 10	641	120	25% „	2,907	—
Wellington R.	Ketley and Lawley ..	2/5/36	796	650	31,975	22,398	30	659	300	25% „	8,000	8,000
	Donnington and Muxton ..	4/2/39	388	1,552	18,460	600 17,204 666	60 30 15	1,028	100	20% „	3,692	3,692
	(Extension) ..	28/10/39	—	—	9,000	—	—	—	—	20% „	1,400	1,400
	„	29/5/43	—	—	16,850	14,625 2,225	30 20	919	100	20% „	3,370	—
					£157,423						£31,851	£14,412

VENEREAL DISEASE.

There is no evidence of any material increase in the prevalence of Venereal Disease in this County as a result of war-time conditions. Particulars of the cases dealt with under the various arrangements made by the County Council are given below.

Clinics.—The main treatment centre for Shropshire cases is, of course, the Shrewsbury Clinic, but the Oswestry Clinic, which was opened in 1941, seems to have justified its existence. Although the number of cases dealt with at Oswestry is not large, the measure of its success must not be judged by the number of patients in attendance, as it is conceivable that a great deal of harm could be done even by a small number of cases for whom treatment facilities were not locally available. It would have been very difficult to secure the attendance at Shrewsbury of certain of the cases who were dealt with at Oswestry; and the number of cases, if not the number of attendances, at this Clinic is comparable with those who attended the Wolverhampton Clinic from the east of the County.

Treatment by General Medical Practitioners.—General Medical Practitioners with the necessary qualifications, who are willing to undertake at the expense of the County Council, the treatment in their own Surgeries of patients suffering from Venereal Disease, dealt with eleven male and eight female cases during the year.

Cleveland House, Wolverhampton.—This hostel is available for girls and women suffering from Venereal Disease who are unsuitable for treatment at clinics. During the year one case was admitted from this County.

Cases of Venereal Disease Treated in 1943 and 1944.

	SHREWSBURY CLINIC.											
	Cases.						Attendances.					
	Male.		Female.		Total.		Male.		Female.		Total.	
	1943	1944	1943	1944	1943	1944	1943	1944	1943	1944	1943	1944
Syphilis	54	60	72	70	126	130	439	394	864	725	1303	1119
Soft Chancre	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gonorrhoea	75	45	50	40	125	85	183	110	135	171	318	281
Other conditions ..	68	65	97	130	165	195	130	125	318	362	448	487
Totals	197	170	219	240	416	410	752	629	1317	1258	2069	1887
Increase (+) Decrease (—)	—27		+21		—6		—123		—59		—182	

OSWESTRY CLINIC.												
Syphilis	6	11	5	5	11	16	55	51	63	56	118	107
Soft Chancre	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gonorrhoea	15	9	8	6	23	15	23	32	28	11	51	43
Other conditions ..	9	2	10	22	19	24	54	5	34	43	88	48
Totals	30	22	23	33	53	55	132	88	125	110	257	198
Increase (+) Decrease (—)	—8		+10		+2		—44		—15		—59	

	WOLVERHAMPTON CLINIC.				General Medical Practitioners.			
	Cases.		Attendances.		Cases			
	1943	1944	1943	1944	Male.	Female.	1943	1944
Syphilis	3	4	190	264	1	4	—	—
Soft Chancre	—	—			—	—	—	—
Gonorrhoea	3	8			—	2	1	1
Other conditions	13	14			1	5	1	7
Totals	19	26	190	264	2	11	2	8
Increase (+)	+7		+74		+7		+6	
Decrease (—)								

Examination of Pathological Specimens from Treatment Centres.

	Culture.	Serum.	Microscopic.
Salop Clinics	85	244	269
Wolverhampton Clinic ..	4	77	98

Regulation 33.B.—In January, 1943, Regulation 33.B. was added to the Defence (General) Regulations, and provides for the compulsory treatment of Venereal Disease in certain circumstances. The object of the Regulation is to bring under medical care those infected persons who have shown themselves unresponsive to educational propaganda, or to methods of persuasion, and who remain a constant source of danger to the health of the community. The following is a brief outline of the scheme.

When a Medical Officer, specially approved by the Ministry of Health for the purposes of the treatment of patients suffering from Venereal Disease, and therefore referred to in the Regulation as a "Special Practitioner," is informed by one of his patients of the source of infection, and the person named has been reported in this way on more than one occasion, that person, described in the Regulation as the "contact," comes within the category of those liable to be dealt with under this Regulation.

Notification of such cases is sent by the Special Practitioner to the Medical Officer of Health of the County or County Borough in which the contact resides, and the Medical Officer of Health is required on receipt of the second notification to serve a notice requiring the attendance of the contact for examination and treatment by a Special Practitioner. In the event of failure to comply with this notice, the person named is liable on summary conviction to imprisonment or fine, or both; and attendance for treatment is required until a Certificate is received from the Special Practitioner stating that the patient is free from Venereal Disease in a communicable form.

Subsequent to the coming into force of Regulation 33.B., the Ministry of Health issued a Circular stating that there was some misunderstanding of the position, and therefore a difference of opinion regarding the action which could be taken when *only one notification* had been received in respect of an alleged contact. The Ministry suggested that, by the paying of an informal visit

before the receipt of a second notification, much might be done to prevent the spread of infection ; and the Public Health Committee, after considering this Circular, decided that the County Medical Officer of Health should not of necessity await a second notification, but should, at his discretion, take such informal action as seemed desirable on receipt of the first notification.

It may be pointed out that, notwithstanding the power which Regulation 33.B. gives to the Venereal Diseases Authority to serve notice on the contact requiring his compulsory attendance for treatment on receipt of a second notification, the recommendation of the Ministry of Health is that, before serving such a notice, a second informal visit should be paid, and that the notice should only be served when failure to attend shows that the second informal visit has not achieved its object.

All contacts are therefore visited immediately and informally on receipt of the first notification, but of course no other action can be taken to secure attendance in any particular case pending the receipt of a second notification from a Special Practitioner. When this is received in the case of a contact who has not responded to the first informal visit, a second such visit is paid ; and if the contact does not then attend for treatment a formal notice is served. As there is often some delay in securing attendance for treatment while awaiting the result of the second informal visit, the desirability of serving a notice on receipt of the second notification without any further informality is worthy of consideration.

During 1944, the number of contacts notified (all of whom were females) was 23, and the necessary visits, formal and informal, were carried out with the following results :—

Number who attended for treatment on one informal visit	4
„ „ „ „ „ „ two „ visits	0
„ „ „ „ „ „ notice being served	2
Number who did not attend :—	
(a) Promised but failed to attend after one notification	7
(b) Could not be traced	6
(c) Not visited—at first no visits were paid in absence of second notification ..	4
	<hr/> 23 <hr/>

BACTERIOLOGICAL AND PATHOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

The following examinations have been carried out on behalf of the County Council at the Donaldson-Hudson Pathological Laboratories, Royal Salop Infirmary, Shrewsbury :—

Throat, Nose and Ear Swabs	For Diphtheria bacilli	1190
	„ Haemolytic Streptococci	1815
	„ Vincents Angina	938
	Other Examinations	236
Examinations for Tubercle Bacilli	Microscopic	1260
	Culture	912
	Other examinations	74
General Cultural Examinations of Sputum		52
Faeces for Pathogenic Organisms		482
Widals Tests		81
Venereal Diseases Examinations :—Serological		1257
	Bacteriological	919
Bacteriological Examinations of Water samples		1106
Bacteriological Examinations of Milk samples		196
Other Bacteriological Examinations		1652
Haemotology—Blood counts, etc.		449
Biochemical Examinations		334

MENTAL HEALTH.

Mental Treatment Act, 1930.—The Mental Treatment Clinic held weekly sessions at the Royal Salop Infirmary during the year ended the 31st March, 1945. Sixty-eight new patients were seen at the Clinic by the Medical Officer, Dr. Stanley Hughes, during the year, and re-visits were made by 38 of these patients.

Forty-nine “voluntary” and two “temporary” patients were admitted to the Salop Mental Hospital during the same period.

Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913—1938.

Statistics.—The following are particulars of the numbers of defectives dealt with under the Mental Deficiency Acts on the 31st December, 1944, and the 31st December, 1943 :—

	MALES.				FEMALES.				Total.	
	Under 16.		Over 16.		Under 16.		Over 16.			
	1943	1944	1943	1944	1943	1944	1943	1944	1943	1944
Cases in State Institutions	—	—	6	6	—	—	6	7	12	13
Cases in Certified Institutions	13	12	85	88	7	6	120	121	225	227
Cases on Licence from Institutions	—	—	13	13	—	—	22	23	35	36
Cases under Guardianship	—	—	6	6	—	—	19	14	25	20
Cases on Licence from Guardianship	—	—	1	1	—	—	2	4	3	5
Cases under Statutory Supervision	20	21	96	97	26	27	92	94	234	239
Grand Totals	33	33	207	211	33	33	261	263	534	540

In addition to the above there were 712 defectives, not formally supervised under the provisions of the Mental Deficiency Act, who were kept under friendly supervision by the Health Visitors. A further 79 mental defectives were accommodated in Public Assistance Institutions, and 115 in the Mental Hospital.

School Cases.—The following are particulars of educable mentally defective children under the Salop Education Committee on 31st December, 1944 :—

	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
In Special Schools	6	5	11
Awaiting admission to a Special School	2	3	5
Under Supervision of School Nurses	76	49	125
	<hr/> 84	<hr/> 57	<hr/> 141

There were in addition 111 school-children (69 boys and 42 girls) whose mental condition had been called in question, about fifty per cent. of whom, it has been estimated, will probably prove to be feeble-minded. It has thus been calculated that there were a total of 196 feeble-minded children under the Local Education Authority, who are eligible for admission to Special Schools.

